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Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3181

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2067

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, WB
SUBJ: SENATOR STOBBE ON FUTURE BERLIN PROJECTS

1. IN LUNCHEON DISCUSSION WITH ALLIED MINISTERS 28 SEPTEMBER, SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS STOBBE SAID HE WOULD URGE POST-ELECTION FRG GOVERNMENT TAKE FOLLOWING STEPS WITH RESPECT BERLIN:

A. REVISE FRG BUDGET APPROACH SO THAT EXCEPT FOR LUMP-SUM BUDGETARY GRANT TO CITY, FRG EXPENDITURES IN BERLIN WOULD BE SPREAD THROUGHOUT BUDGET ON FUNCTIONAL BASIS, RATHER THAN BE GROUPED ALTOGETHER IN "BERLIN COSTS" CATEGORY. HIS REASONING IS THAT THIS WOULD LOWER OVERALL BERLIN BUDGET VISIBILITY; IT WOULD BE SEEN FOR EXAMPLE THAT ROAD-STREET BUILDING COSTS MET BY FRG IN BERLIN ARE SMALL COMPARED TO CERTAIN OTHER AREAS SUCH AS SOUTH GERMANY.

B. GET MOVING WITH GDR ON HAMBURG-BERLIN AUTOBAHN.

C. GET MOVING ON LONGER-TERM EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLY TO BERLIN, PREFERABLY BY LINK WITH FRG GRID COMING IN OVER GDR TERRITORY FROM HELMSTEDT.

D. REQUIRE MANAGEMENT OF SOME LARGE, FRG-OWNED
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ENTERPRISE, SUCH AS VEBA, TO MOVE TO BERLIN. IN CASE

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VEBA, THIS WOULD INVOLVE SOME 250 TOP MANAGEMENT PERSON-
NEL, GROUP WHICH STOBBE THINKS COULD BE ADEQUATELY
HOUSED IN BERLIN. SUCH A STEP WOULD STRENGTHEN FRG
HAND IN URING PRIVATE CORPORATIONS TAKE SIMILAR ACTION.
STOBBE ADMITTED, INCIDENTALLY, THAT LIKELIHOOD DISLODGING
VEBA FROM DUSSELDORF IS SMALL.

2. COMMENT: STOBBE HAS CONSISTENTLY TAKEN POSITION
WITH US HERE THAT WHILE SMALL PRACTICAL STEPS TO EASE
LIFE FOR BERLINERS ARE IMPORTANT, IT IS ALSO HIGHLY
DESIRABLE FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL AS WELL AS PRACTICAL REASONS
BRING ABOUT BIG SPLASHY PROJECTS SUCH AS NEW AUTOBAHN
OR EXTERNAL POWER TIE-IN. WHILE HE AND OTHER SPD-FDP
TYPES ALWAYS SPEAK AS IF RENEWED COALITION GOVERNMENT
WILL OF COURSE BE DEALING WITH BERLIN PROBLEMS AFTER THE
ELECTION, THEY WOULD NO DOUBT TAKE BASICALLY SAME APPROACH
WITH WHOEVER IS RUNNING THINGS IN BONN. SOME EVEN SPECU-
LATE THAT BERLIN MIGHT MAKE OUT BETTER WITH CDU GOVERNMENT,
IN VIEW OF OPPOSITION BIG TALK ABOUT THE CITY AND ITS
NEEDS AND STATED OR IMPLIED CLAIM THAT "WE COULD DO IT
BETTER."GEORGE

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